

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 06254 241054Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 OMB-01
TRSE-00 HA-05 /083 W
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P 240638Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSS LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6778
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BEL
COMUSFORAZ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 6254

USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJ: ASSEMBLY MOVES ON ELECTION LAWS

1. TIMETABLE SET:

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MET AUG 22 IN SPECIAL SESSION
TO PREPARE ELECTION LEGISLATION WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY IF THE
COUNTRY GOES TO NEW ELECTIONS. THE ASSEMBLY SET THE
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FOLLOWING TIMETABLE:

-- FINAL VOTE ON THE NEW VOTER REGISTRATION LAW - AUG 29.

-- TWO-DAY DEBATE BEGINS ON THE FIRST READING OF THE REVISED
ELECTION LAWS BEING PREPARED BY EACH OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
GROUPS - SEPT 5.

-- AFTER DETAILED STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN COMMITTEE, THE
PLENARY WILL VOTE ON A REVISED ELECTION LAW - SEPT 15.

2. CONDITIONING FACTORS:

THE DIRECTOR OF THE ELECTIONS SECRETARIAT HAS ESTIMATED THAT
IT WOULD TAKE 136 DAYS TO CARRY OUT THE NEW VOTER REGISTRATION
AFTER THE LAW IS APPROVED. BY THIS COUNT, NEW ELECTIONS COULD
BE CONDUCTED IN FEBRUARY 1979. ON THE NEW ELECTION LAW, THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IS HEAVILY CONSTRAINED BY THE
CONSTITUTION WHICH SPECIFIES THE NUMBER OF DEPUTIES, AND
THE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS.
ELECTION LAW PROPOSALS WILL CONSEQUENTLY FOCUS ON POSSIBLE
ALTERATIONS IN THE SIZE OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND ON WHETHER
TO MAKE THE VOTE MANDATORY.
ROWELL

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